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19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)

Low contrast, low spatial frequency luminance sawtooth patterns look like luminance staircases, with no brightness changes over the shallower luminance slope. Brightness measurements at corresponding points in different cycles of these patterns showed substantial illusory brightness differences. Other measurements showed that the illusion is not confined to strictly subthreshold luminance gradients, but occur with slightly suprathreshold gradients as well.

In models which attempt to explain these illusions the visual system integrates over the thresholded gradient of the stimulus distribution. The integration encounters problems due to curl introduced by the nonlinear threshold operator. Lightness measurements indicated that these problems have a visual counterpart, further support for the models.

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19. (cont.)

> Several new illusion were found to result from this nonlinear threshold for spatial gradient, including patterns where gradients were perceived in uniform regions and nonuniform stimulus regions were perceived as uniform.

Color constancy was measured for multiple regions of the visual field under different illuminants. Little hue constancy was observed, but subjects could accurately predict the appearance of a colored surface under the various illuminants. The results were little affected by the number of colored surfaces in the scene.

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FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

CONTRACT FQ8671-8300517

2/1/83 - 1/31/86

Eye Research Institute
20 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114

Principal Investigator: Lawrence E. Arend

REPORT: 2/1/83 TO 1/31/86

I. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project was further development of a model (Arend, 1973) describing the role of retinal image motion in the human visual system's processing of edge information in patterns.   Several lines of investigation were proposed, including:

A.   Eye Movements and Stabilized Retinal Images

Recent experiments using grating patterns held stationary on the retina have raised questions concerning the role of retinal image motion in spatial pattern vision.   The fact that high contrast gratings remain visible when stabilized with the SRI Double Purkinje Image Eyetracker (Kelly, 1979) has been interpreted as meaning that the human visual system can process pattern information in the absence of temporal change of the retinal image, contradicting previous views.   This issue is a critical part of the most basic understanding of human pattern vision. One goal of the project was stabilization work in which we 1) replicated Kelly's basic observations of stabilized gratings and 2) reinterpreted all grating stabilization data in light of new calculations of the sensitivity of the human visual system to small image motion.

B.   Spatial Gradients and Integration over Edge Information

A large component of the project was investigation of how information from sharp and shallow spatial gradients of intensity and color gets assembled into a stable and reliable visual array of lightness and color.   Goals for this portion of the project were 1) assembly and calibration of the display system consisting of minicomputer, image processor and color video monitor 2) software development for displaying patterns and controlling experiments and 3) experiments on gradient illusions.

C.   Lightness and Color Constancy in Complex Patterns

The third major goal was investigation of lightness and color constancy in complex patterns.   One of the properties of the model is encoding of information about relative lightnesses and colors.   Relatively little work has been done on color perception with complicated spatial patterns.   Further development of the model requires information about the roles of several parameters, including complexity (number of different colors under single illuminant, range of different colors) and spatial distribution of reflectances and illuminants.

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II. STATUS OF RESEARCH EFFORT

A. Stabilized Retinal Images

Substantial progress was made in evaluating Purkinje Image
Eyetracker stabilization of gratings. The principal conclusions
are:

    1) Most of the gross form of Kelly's grating stabilization
    data replicates in our lab using a similar eyetracker,
    different subjects and improved methods.

    2) Calculations from stabilized grating contrast
sensitivities show that the P.I. tracker (in fact, probably
no existent eyetracker) can eliminate all meaningful retinal
image motion and therefore:

    a) Residual visibility of stabilized objects does not
    necessarily imply that the visual system contains mechanisms
    capable of responding to temporally unchanging inputs and
    b) Only subjective pattern fading and disappearance can be
    relied upon as a criterion of stabilization adequacy, and
    then only with qualification.

In light of current evidence, therefore, it is likely that all
pattern information is derived from retinal temporal changes. We
therefore must have a model like that under investigation here,
describing the extraction of spatial pattern information from
temporal information.
    A paper describing our stabilized grating experiments and
motion-sensitivity calculations was published in the Journal of
the Optical Society of America A.

B. Spatial Gradients and Integration of Edge Information

1. Display System. During the first year a display system
consisting of a VAX 11/750 minicomputer, an Adage 3000 image
processor and a Tektronix 690 RGB monitor was selected,
purchased, and installed. The display system was calibrated in
the second year to provide accurate specification of luminance
and chromaticity over the full output range of the monitor.
    The spectral emitances of the red, green, and blue phosphors
of the monitor were obtained by a grating-monochromator
multichannel analyzer and the CIE chromaticity coordinates of the
phosphors were calculated (fig. 1).
    Luminance vs. digital-input-data curves were obtained for
the three guns singly and together at nine screen locations.
Unlike published data on other monitors (Cowan, 1984) the curves
for all three guns were well fit by a single power function
(after multiplication by a constant equating the maximum outputs
for the guns). Thus the outputs can all be linearized with one
power function. The function in use linearizes the light output
to better than one percent at all values (fig. 2). The output of
the phosphors is stable; repeatability is excellent from week to
week.

Figure 1.   Relative power spectra of phosphors of Tektronix 690
monitor.   Right peak: red phosphor.   Middle peak: green phosphor.
Left peak: blue phosphor.

Fig. 2.   a) Luminance of Tektronix 690 phosphors as function of
digital data applied to D/A converters.   Scaled to maximum
luminance of white (all three guns at maximum)=94.0 Cd/m^2.
Curves, top to bottom: white (all guns on), green, red, blue.

b) Curves of fig. 2a each scaled to its own maximum luminance.
Power function is the same for all three guns.

c)   Luminance curves of phosphors after linearization, as
function of image data level.   Each curve scaled to its own
maximum.

SCALED

Scaled Power Spectra

Rel. Power

Red
Green
Blue

Nm

Fig. 1

SCALED LUMINANCE

DAC INPUT DATA
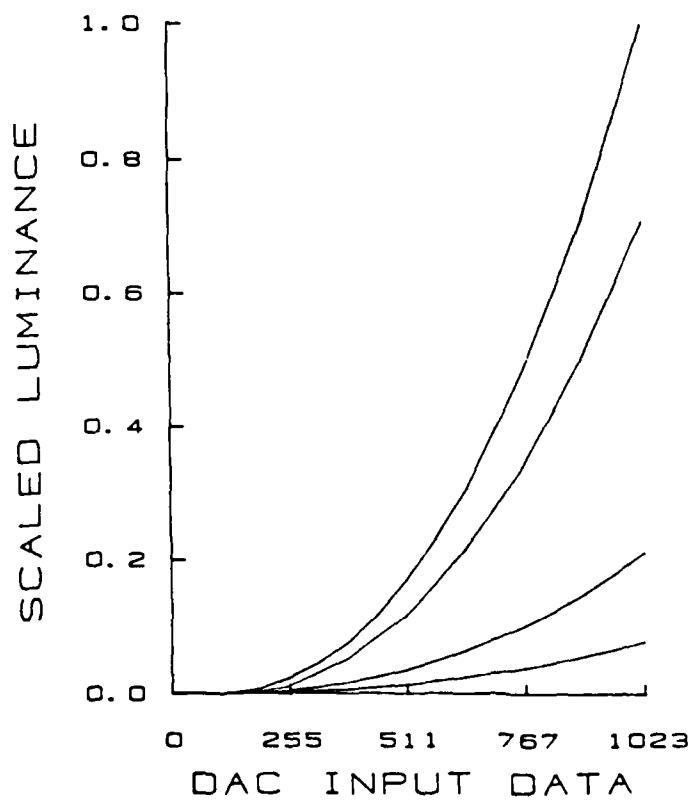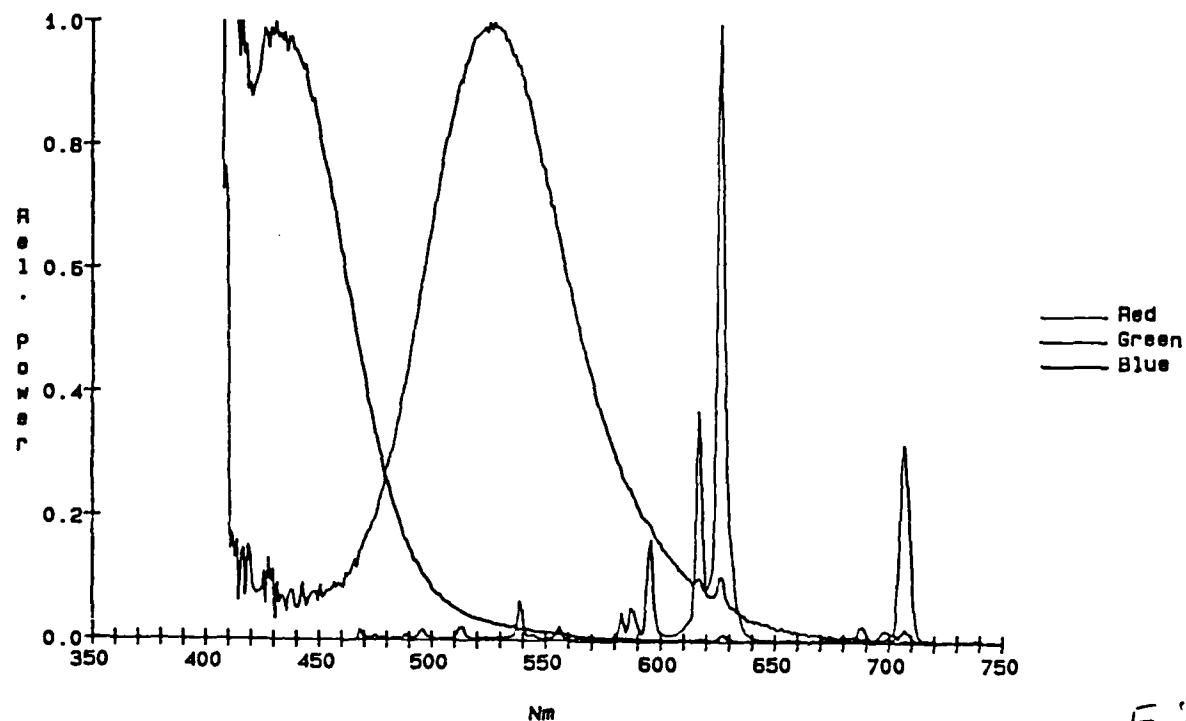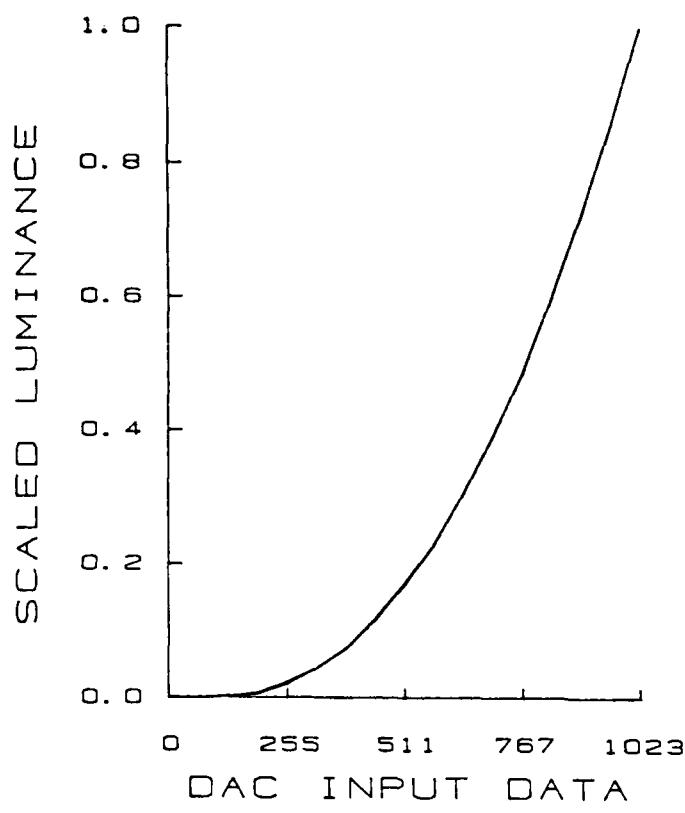
Fig. 2b
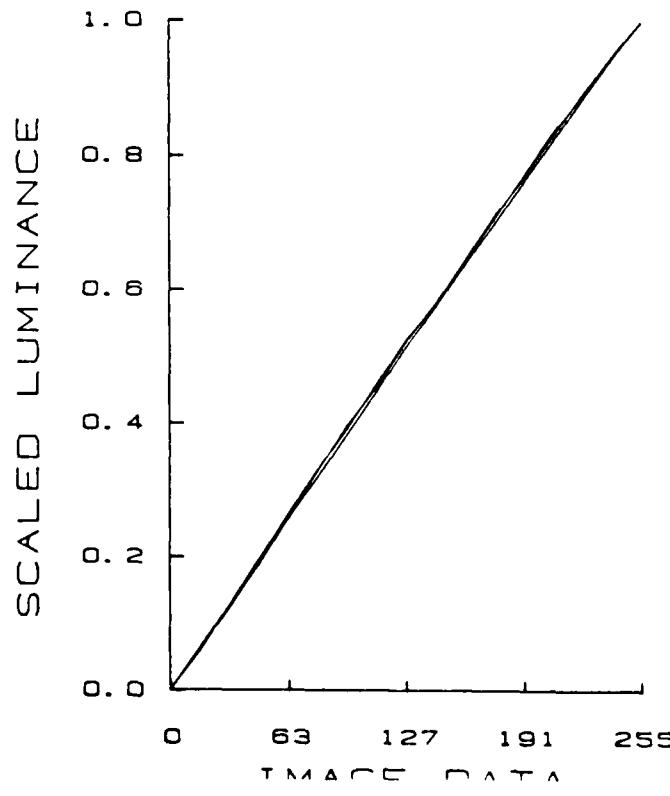
Fig. 2c

2. Measurement of Gradient Illusions.

The first step in studying gradient illusions (Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet and related illusions) was development of satisfactory techniques for measuring the appearance of these complex spatial patterns.

We explored several techniques and used them to obtain more quantitative detail than previously available A wide variety of shallow gradient patterns yield illusory brightnesses. We chose initially to study a circular ring pattern with a radial luminance distribution consisting of three cycles of a low contrast sawtooth (fig. 3). Even though the three cycles have identical luminance the figure appears as a nearly uniform brightness central disk surrounded by two nearly uniform rings of increasing (3a) or decreasing (3b) brightness relative to the central disk.

The subject could vary the luminance of a small square in the corner of the display to make its brightness match the centers of the inner and outer bands (fig. 3, 1 and 2).

In figs. 4 and 5 are brightness matches from two subjects for several sawtooth contrasts in each polarity. While there are important differences of detail the subjects generally agree that substantial brightness differences occurred at all contrasts. This was a somewhat surprising result. In the simplest form of the model the illusory brightness differences require that the shallow gradient be below threshold and not perceived. At our lowest contrast the bands were very uniform in brightness and the edges had low apparent contrast. At the highest physical contrast the rings had pronounced brightness gradients between high contrast edges. It was initially somewhat surprising therefore that large brightness differences occurred even in the presence of the visible gradient. In an attempt to quantify the appearances at the various contrasts the subjects were asked to judge the fraction of the ring which appeared uniform in brightness. While there are obviously criterion definition problems with this task, in practice the judgements were not difficult and had reasonable error bars. Means of five judgements are shown in figs. 6 and 7. Both subjects judged the lowest contrast patterns to have only narrow regions of nonuniformity adjacent to the contours. At the highest contrast both saw brightness gradients over most of the ring, but RG adopted a less strict criterion than LA.

Upon closer consideration there are two simple possible explanations for the brightness differences at the highest contrasts: 1) Even though less of each ring appears uniform, the uniform portion spans a greater luminance range due to the higher physical contrast. 2) The threshold for gradient need not be a step function wherein increases of luminance gradient change abruptly from no visibility to weight equal to that given steep gradients; a more reasonable function would be sigmoid with physical gradients passing gradually from no representation of shallow gradients through progressively greater weights for steeper gradients. While the second option seems likely, the data in figs. 4-7 are also consistent with the first.

The graded threshold account is, however, supported by a further experiment. Patterns with the radial luminance profiles

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Figure 3. Luminance and brightness as a function of radial distance. Inset: display configuration. Left: luminance along radius of inset (zero = center). Right: sketch of brightness distribution along radius of inset pattern. Subject adjusted luminance of rectangle in inset pattern to match brightness at points 1 and 2.

Figure 4. Brightness matches for patterns of fig. 3 as a function of pattern contrast $(=(L_{max}-L_{min})/(L_{max}+L_{min}))$. Circles, top: point 1, top configuration of fig. 3. Circles, bottom: point 2, top configuration. Squares, top: point 2, bottom configuration of fig. 3. Squares, bottom: point 1, bottom configuration. Subject LA.

Figure 5. Same as fig. 4, subject RG.

Figure 6. Estimates of percentage of width of band which appeared uniform in brightness as a function of pattern contrast. Patterns of fig. 3, top configuration. Circles: outer band. Squares: inner band. Subject LA.

Figure 7. Same as fig. 6, subject RG.
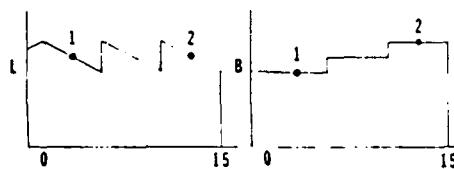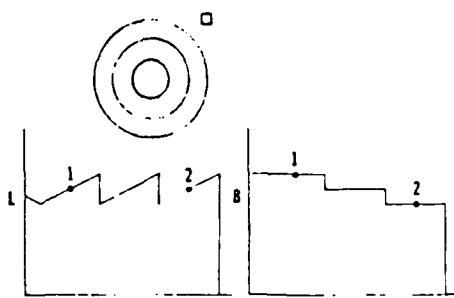
RADIAL DISTANCE (VIS ANGLE)

Fig. 3

LABASIC

LA Basic Illusion

Con A - inner
Con A - outer
Con B - inner
Con B - outer

Contrast

Fig. 4

AB Basic Illusion

Con A - inner
Con A - outer
Con B - inner
Con B - outer
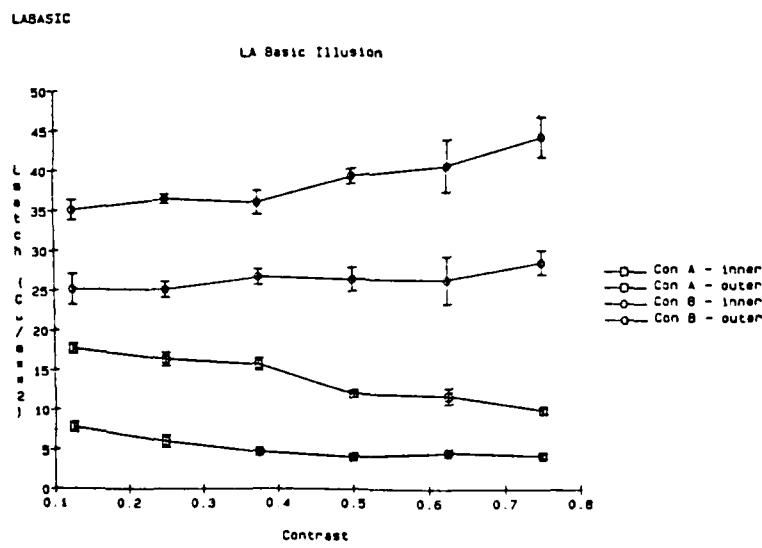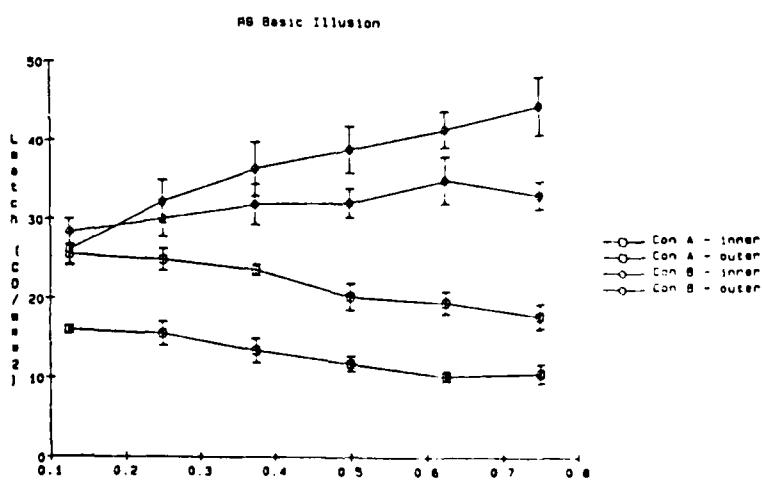
Fig. 5
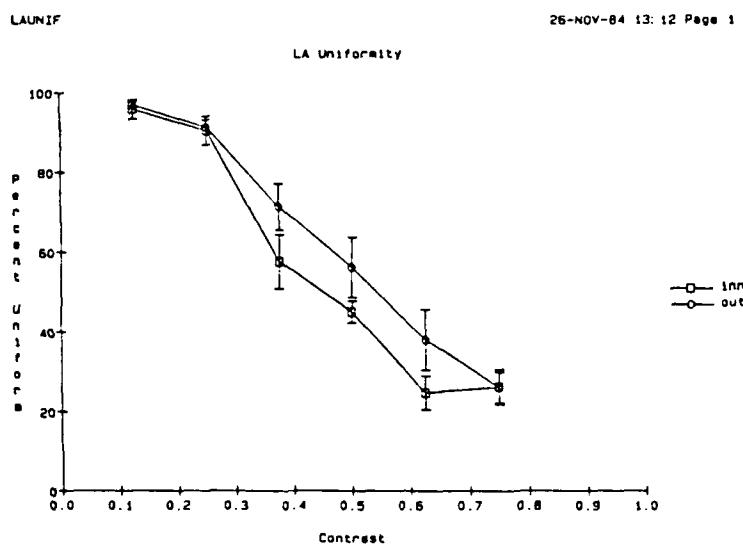
Fig. 6
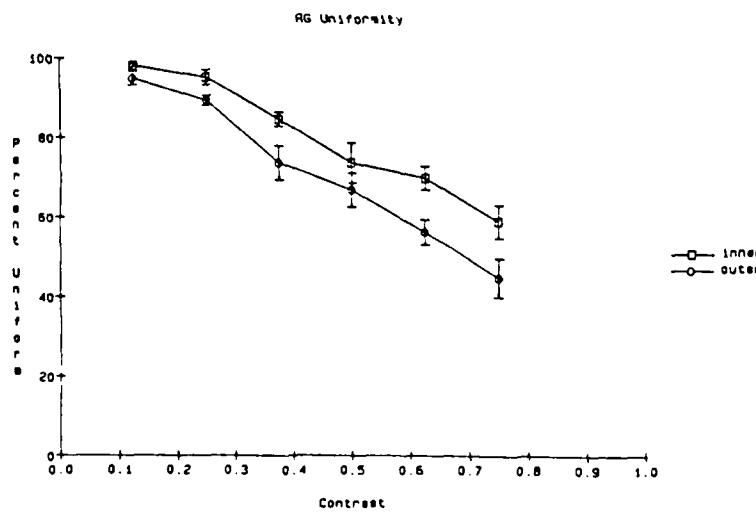
Fig. 7

of fig. 8 have no subthreshold gradients if the small steps are detectable. Nevertheless, for patterns with many small steps per ring there is a clear brightness difference between the bands. In fig. 9 are brightness matching data from two subjects for 5-11 steps per ring. In all the stimuli the small steps were visible. No brightness differences occurred for few steps, but clear differences occurred at 9 and 11 steps. The brightness differences in fig. 9 clearly indicate that the sum of the small brightness steps within the rings did not equal the sum of the large brightness steps between rings. We therefore conclude that the threshold for spatial gradient is not abrupt but graded. More detailed experiments will allow determination of the form of the weighting curve transferring luminance gradients to brightness gradients.

3. Gradient and Curl   A major issue proposed for second and third year study was inconsistent integrals in two dimensional applications of Land and McCann's (1971) and Arend's (1973) essentially one-dimensional models.   The problem is illustrated in fig. 10.   According to both models the brightness of B relative to that of A is obtained by the visual system by taking the gradient of log retinal illuminance, setting all gradients below some threshold to zero and integrating over the resulting distribution.   Explicitly in Land and McCann's model and implicitly in Arend's the differentiation and integration are done along arbitrarily chosen curves between A and B.   The models make the correct prediction along the straight line joining A and B in fig. 10.   The shallow gradient is below threshold so the only derivatives going into the integral are the downward steps at the contours, indicating that B is darker than A.   Along the path crossing the outer boundary, however, we get a different answer.   There is no change between A and the outer boundary, a downward step of known magnitude to the background luminance, no change over the background segment, an upward step on crossing back into B's band equal and opposite to the initial crossing into the background, and no change between the outer boundary and B.   The sum of these derivatives is zero indicating that A and B are equal in brightness.

These inconsistent integrals will occur with any model which accounts for gradient illusions by taking derivatives or differences, thresholding, and then summing or integrating. This includes second-derivative models like Horn (1974) and Marr's (1974).   In all cases the presence of path-dependent line integrals means there is no true two-dimensional integral and some special process must be proposed for resolving the inconsistencies (unless one wishes to propose that the appearance of such patterns is unstable or multistable, changing over time, or perhaps beyond description at any given time).

Not all patterns produce inconsistent integrals in the models.   The radial sawtooth distributions of fig. 3, for example, produce no inconsistent integrals. All paths between a point in the inner ring and a point in the outer ring cross the same subthreshold and suprathreshold gradients.   It seemed possible that distributions with inconsistent integrals might produce smaller illusory brightness differences and larger

Figure 8. Cube root of luminance as function of radial position.

Figure 9. a) Brightness matches of centers of three bands of
pattern of fig. 8 as function of pattern contrast (same
definition as fig. 4). Top curve: inner band. Middle curve:
middle band. Bottom curve: outer band. Subject AR.

b) Same as fig. 9a, subject LA.
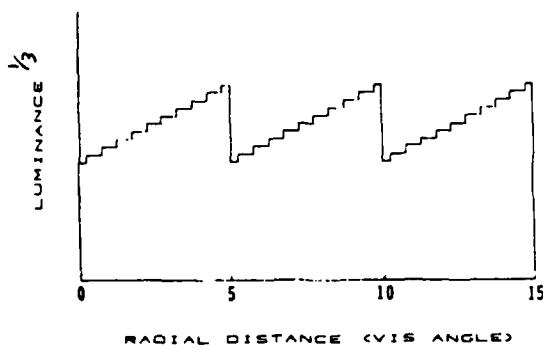
Fig. 8
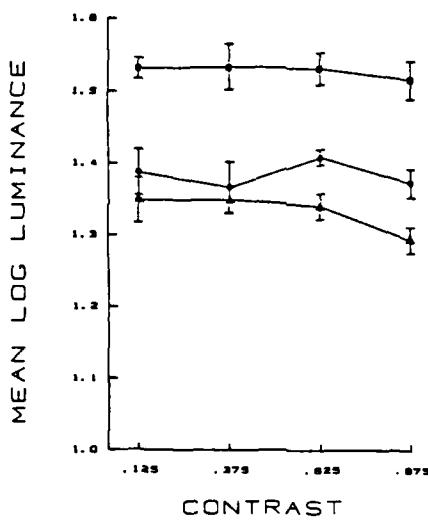
Fig. 9a
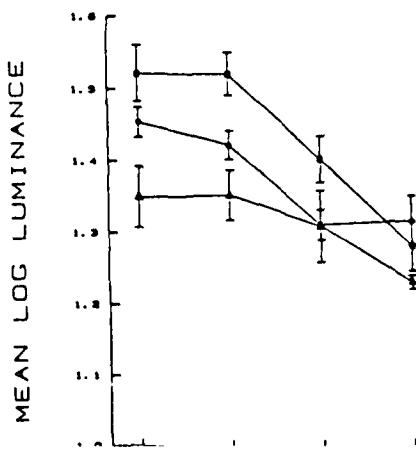
Fig. 9b

brightness gradients than consistent patterns. To test this hypothesis we matched brightnesses in radial-sawtooth disks (see fig. 4) and radial-sawtooth half disks (fig. 11). The latter are merely curved versions of the pattern in fig. 10 and have the same inconsistent integral problems. Data from two subjects are shown in figs. 12 and 13. As hypothesized the half-disk brightness difference (and hence the size of the illusion) is consistently smaller than for the full-disk for both subjects. The difference is less pronounced for RG than for LA, and background luminance had a larger effect on LA's half-disk data than RG's.

Analysis of inconsistent integral problems led us to two new paradoxical patterns, the circumferential sawtooth pattern and the drifting sawtooth illusion.

As noted in the original proposal, one way of resolving the problems in the integration is to perceive brightness gradients which reduce or remove the curl responsible for the inconsistent integrals, i.e., essentially, lower one's threshold for the spatial luminance gradients. While no quantitative data have yet been collected documenting the appearance of the full and half ring patterns, their appearances are consistent with this type of solution. Brightness gradients are much more pronounced in the half-ring patterns than in the corresponding full-ring patterns.

There is, however, at least one other method of resolving the problem. The offending curl occurs where the border with the background slices across the subthreshold luminance gradient as, for example, at the top and bottom of fig. 10. If the integration is carried out only over areas which do not cross this border there are no inconsistent integrals. Thus the problem could be dealt with by segmenting the visual field into separate areas of integration, each internally consistent. The visual problem then reduces to combining the output of the separate integrations to give a brightness distribution extending over the entire visual field. This segmentation could resemble the segmentation required for veridical perception of areas under very different illuminations.

Some evidence that the visual system is sensitive to the geometrical relations among subregions of the image comes from observations of "circumferential sawtooths", displays with a sawtooth luminance distribution around a circumference rather than along a radius (fig. 14). In this distribution a line integral extending from point A around the circumference back to A is not zero (indicating that A is brighter than A or that A is darker than A, depending on the direction of rotation). Visually this pattern is unstable (or possibly multistable) with the brightness distribution varying from moment to moment, depending upon such factors as eye movements and point of fixation. Two adjacent sectors frequently look different in brightness and relatively homogeneous within sectors (though never as homogeneous as in the bands in fig. 3 even when the luminance gradient is less). The other two sectors, however, are nonuniform and their brightness relative to the other three sectors remains vague, even under close attention. If one sector is now replaced by the dark background there is still curl at the

Figure 10. Schematic of integrals computed in brightness models along various paths through two sawtooth luminance patterns. a) Left panel: Linear sawtooth pattern. Right panel: Sketch of integral of thresholded derivative along paths 1 and 2 between points A and B. b) Left panel: Radial sawtooth pattern. Right panel: Sketch of integral of thresholded spatial derivative of luminance along paths 3 and 4 between points C and D. Shallow luminance gradient is below threshold, abrupt steps are not.

Figure 11. Display for brightness matches to half of radial sawtooth pattern. Subject adjusts luminance of rectangle to match brightness of center of inner ring or outer ring.

Figure 12. Brightness matches of centers of rings of radial sawtooth luminance patterns as function of luminance of surround (L_{max}=94.0 Cd/m^2). a) Complete pattern. Squares: inner ring. Circles: outer ring. b) Half pattern. Squares: inner ring. Circles: outer ring. Subject LA.

Figure 13. Same as Fig. 12, subject RG.

a.

b.
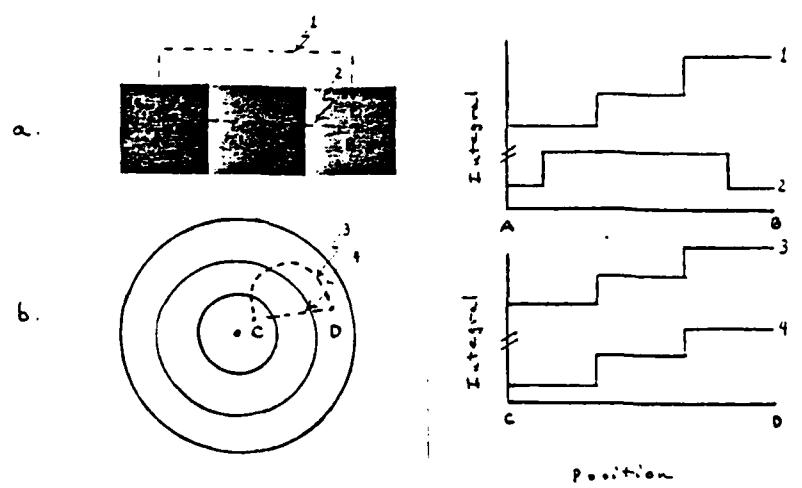
Position

Fig. 10
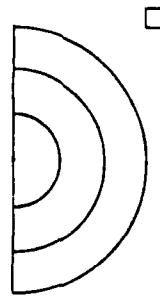
Fig. 11

Figure 14. Luminance as a function of angular position in annular circumferential sawtooth pattern. Dashed line: path of problematic integral of thresholded spatial derivative of luminance in brightness models. Shallow gradient within sectors is below threshold, abrupt steps are not. Thus integral after 360° counterclockwise rotation is sum of four downward steps, indicating that brightness of A does not equal brightness of A.

Figure 15. Sketch of truncated circumferential sawtooth pattern.

Figure 16. CIE diagram indicating Red/Green isoluminous gratings of saturation CSF experiment. Closed curve: spectrum locus. Triangle: color space of Tektronix monitor, corners are phosphor loci. Upper point: experimentally determined unique green. Lower point: D_{6500} white of monitor. Gratings were formed by modulating sinusoidally as indicated in the figure along the line passing through unique green and D_{6500}.

Figure 17. Logarithm of inverse of excitation purity of green peak of just detectable isoluminous chromaticity grating as function of spatial frequency.
Purity = (green peak $- D_{6500}$)/(510 nm $- D_{500}$)

Fig. 13 a

Fig. 13 b

Fig. 12 a

Fig. 12 b

Fig. 13 1

LUMINANCE

ANGLE, θ (DEG)

0   90   180   270   360
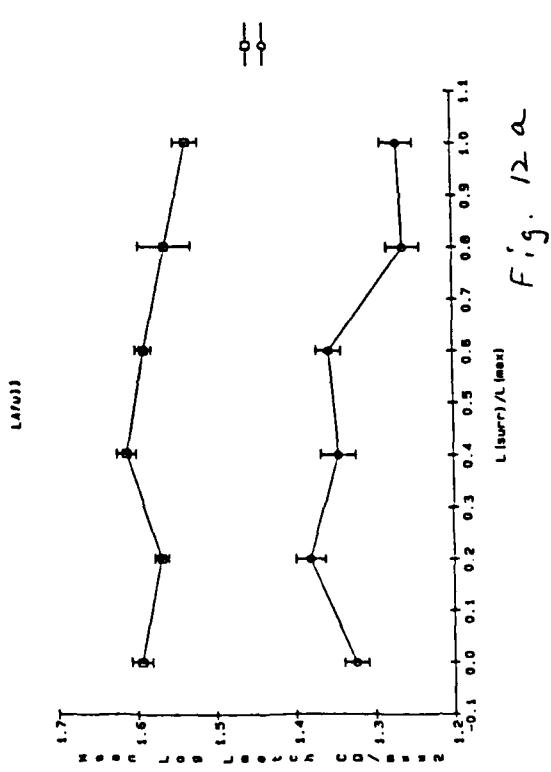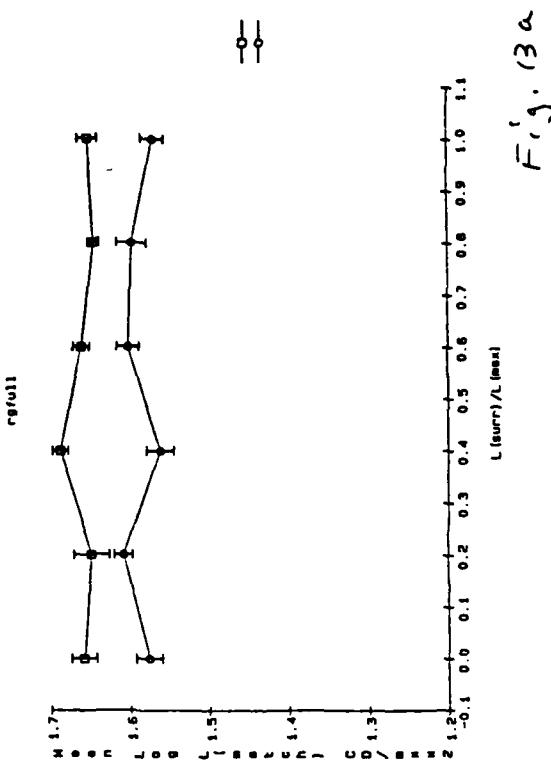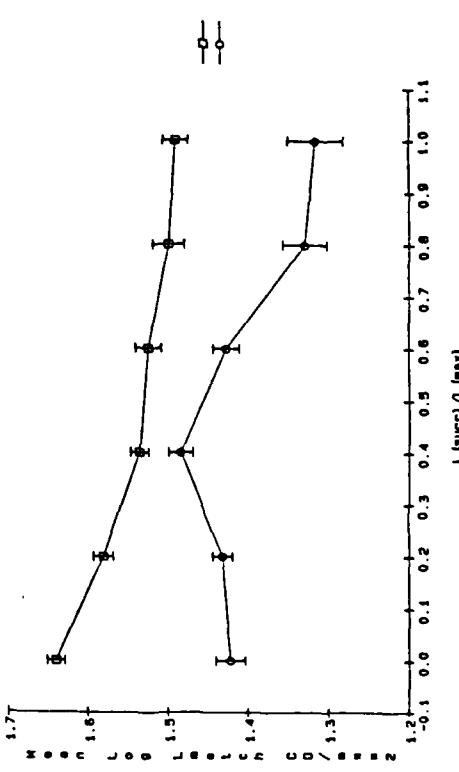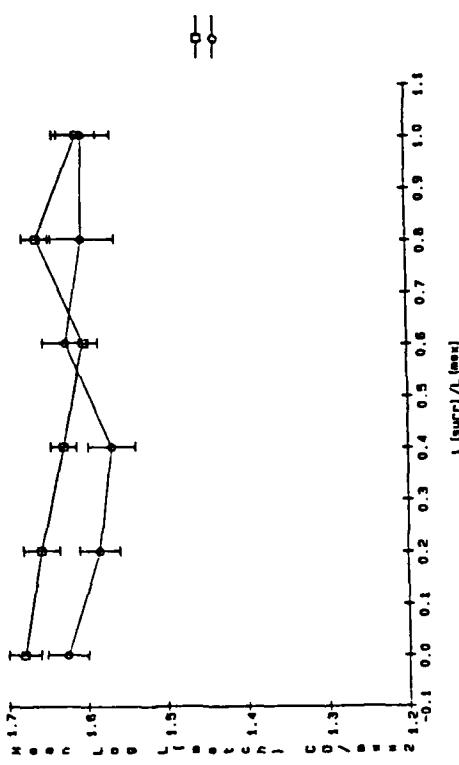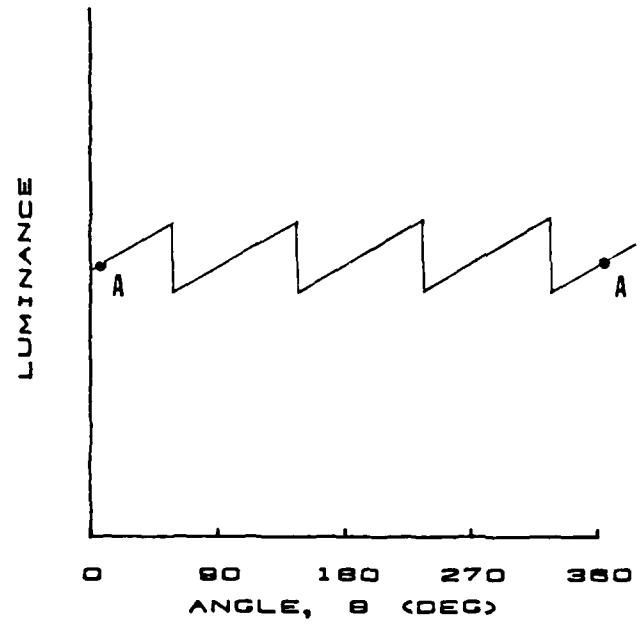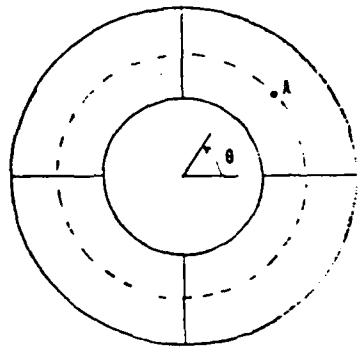
Fig. 14
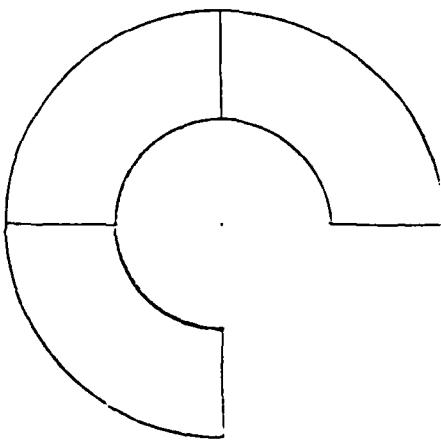
Fig. 15

inner and outer borders of each sector (fig. 15). Nevertheless, the three remaining sectors immediately appear uniform and different in brightness.

We have also discovered a remarkable illusion in which stripes successively drift onto the display, each stripe darker than the previous, but with no change in the overall brightness of the display. Two cycles of a low contrast luminance sawtooth initially fill the screen, appearing quite homogeneous with the left brighter than the right. The entire pattern is then slowly drifted to the left with new cycles of sawtooth appearing on the right edge to replace the portions disappearing at the left. Each cycle as it appears is darker than those to its left. Under passive viewing there is no obvious change in the brightness of the band as it moves across the screen, giving the overall impression that darker bars are being added to the screen. It is only with mental effort that one notices that the overall brightness of the screen is not changing. Under careful scrutiny the brightness of the individual cycle can be seen to increase during its traverse.

These experiments with inconsistent integral patterns provide further demonstrations that the visual system represents patterns not in terms of local luminances or luminance ratios, but in terms of relatively global integrals over spatial derivative information.

C. Color Constancy

Color constancy has been attributed to three distinct mechanisms: adaptation, edge-ratio normalization, and perceptual processes such as discounting the illuminant.

Clearly, color constancy may partly result from adaptation, whereby the sensitivities of the chromatic mechanisms of the visual system change over time in response to the changed illuminant. Such processes have been modelled by the Von Kries coefficient law.

Constancy may, however, also stem from simultaneous mechanisms, such as normalization within neural edge-ratio computations like those of the Arend model or Land's retinex theory which operate independently of temporal (fast or slow) adaptation. The empirical foundation for theories of simultaneous color constancy is, however, rather sparse.

Finally, in the Helmholzian tradition, color constancy may also be due to 'discounting the illuminant.' In this case the local hue, saturation and lightness are affected by a change of illuminant, but the apparent surface color remains constant due to accurate perception of the illuminant change.

We conducted experiments to examine the relative contributions of the latter two mechanisms to color constancy. Our subjects viewed computer simulations of colored paper arrays. A standard patch of colored paper was displayed under one illuminant and a test patch under a different illuminant. The subject was asked either to adjust the test patch to match its hue and saturation to those of the standard patch (hue match) or to adjust the test patch to look as if it were "cut from the same piece of paper" as the standard, i.e., to match its apparent

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surface color (paper match). The two tasks were performed with two different spatial paper arrays.

A number of authors have argued that color constancy depends upon the complexity of the scene. Calculation of the unknown illuminant and unknown surface spectral reflectances from the retinal image may strongly depend upon the number of different color patches viewed. To examine this hypothesis we used cente -surround arrays (two surfaces) and complex arrays (32 surfaces) (Fig. 16).

Observers matched patches (simulated Munsell papers) in two simultaneously- presented computer-controlled displays, a standard array presented under 6500 K illumination and a test array under 4000 or 10000 K. The adjusted patch was surrounded by a single color (annulus display) or by many colors (mondrian display). Observers made either hue and saturation matches, or 'paper' matches, in which the subject was asked to make the test patch look as if it were cut from the same piece of paper as the standard patch.

Results for the annulus condition are shown in CIE (x,y) coordinates in Figure 17. The stimuli are plotted in the same fashion in each panel, with the (x,y) coordinates of the 6500 K standard patches that were matched represented by circles. Coordinates of patches under 4000 K and 10000 K are indicated by squares and triangles, respectively. The mean chromaticities set by the observers are indicated by closed symbols with error bars of +/- one standard error. The open symbols indicate the chromaticity of the paper being matched under the test illuminants. In this representation of the data, perfect color constancy would occur if the subject set the test patch chromaticity to the chromaticity the standard patch would have under the test illuminant, i.e., if open and closed symbols coincided. Results for the hue match are shown on the left of Figure 17, and those for the paper match on the right. The paper matches show quite good color constancy for most of the test patches, although the shift is typically slightly erroneous in magnitude or direction. The hue match data show much less constancy by comparison; the data depart much less from the 6500 deg chromaticity being matched, though the small shifts obtained are typically in the general direction of constancy. Similar results are shown for the mondrian patterns in Figure 18. As with the annuli, the hue matches shifted substantially less than required by color constancy.

In summary, we found little simultaneous color constancy for hue and saturation for any of our spatial configurations, when we asked for direct hue and saturation matches. The 4000 K and 10000 K test illuminants were always easily discriminated from the 6500 K standard display and from each other. All of the test pattern's hues shifted systematically from those of their standard pattern counterparts, i.e., there was a substantial preservation of illuminant information.

Pattern complexity had little effect on the amount of simultaneous color constancy. The hue matches in the mondrian condition showed no more deviation from the 6500 K chromaticity point than in the annulus condition.

These experiments do not rule out the possibility that

7

STANDARD   TEST

5°

5°

7.1°

G 5/2		10YR 5/4	R 5/2		P 5/10
10B 5/4				BG 5/2	
10P 5/10	R 5/12	10PB 5/6	Y 5/4		RP 5/10
		R 5/8	B 5/4	GY 5/6	
GY 5/4			G 5/4	P 5/6	10BG 5/4
10Y 5/4		PB 5/6			10G 5/4
B 5/2	N 5/		YR 5/6	Y 5/2	
		10RP 5/10	BG 5/4		P 5/2
10R 5/6					

RP 5/6   10GY 5/6

Fig. 16

Fig. 17

Fig. 18
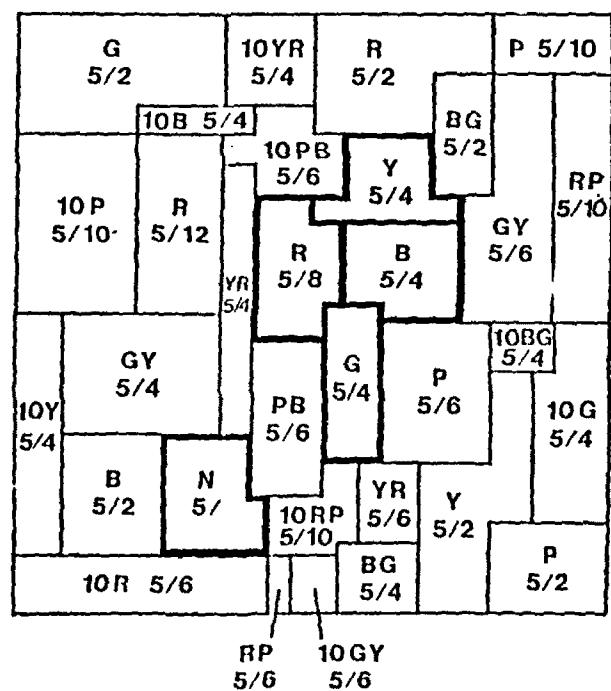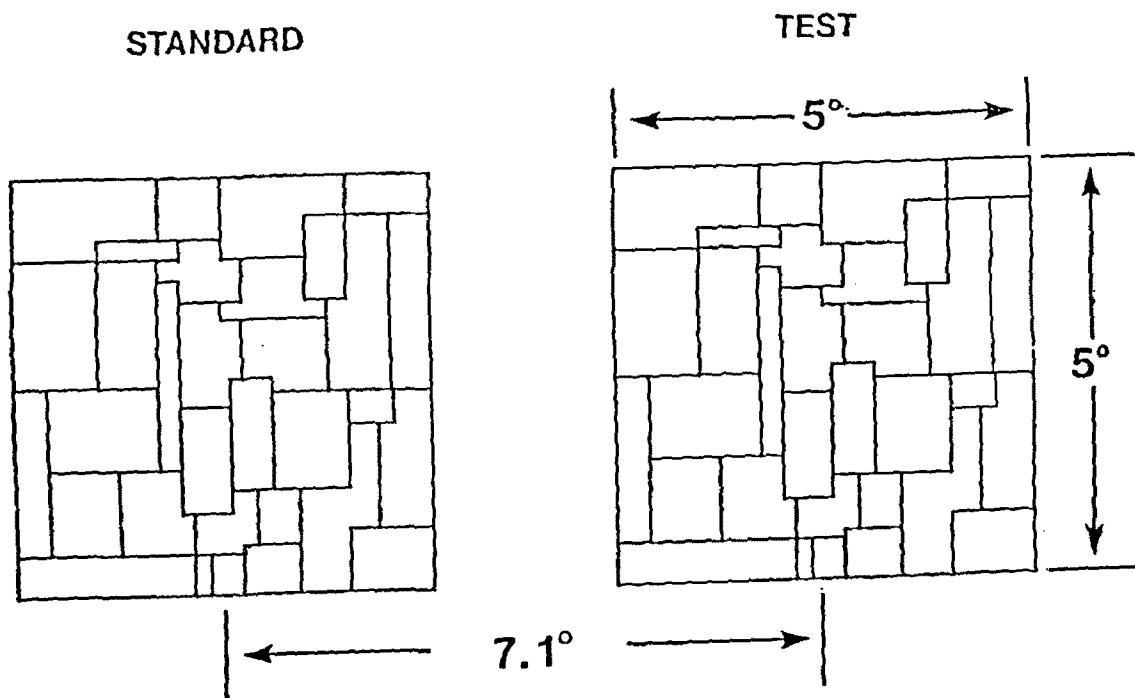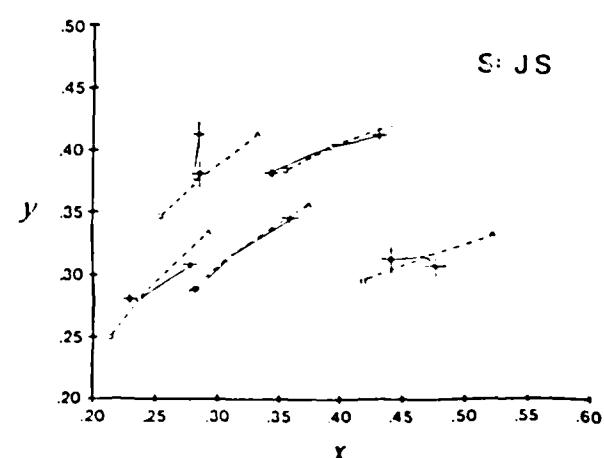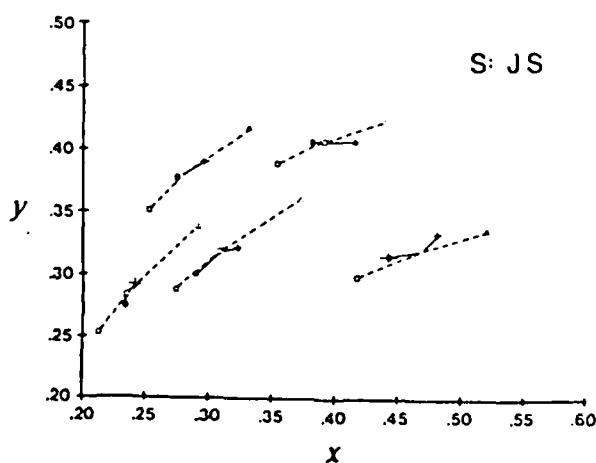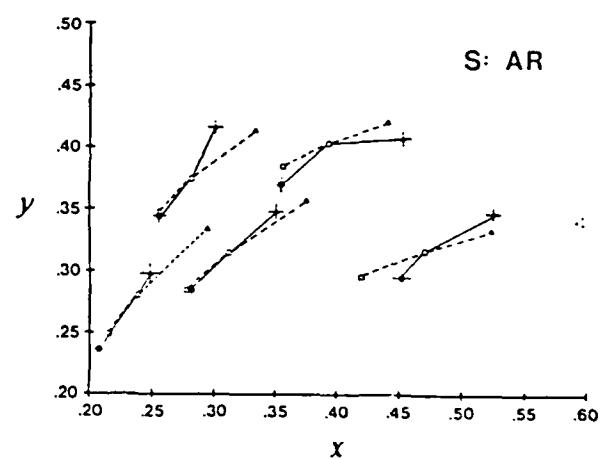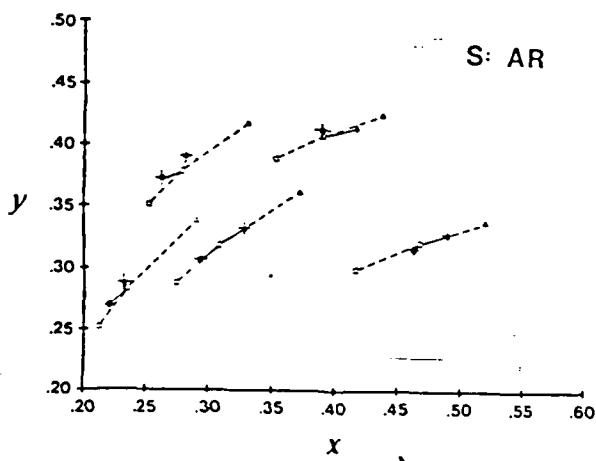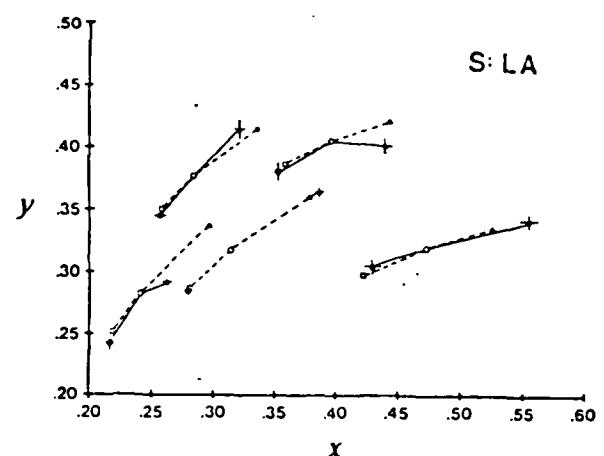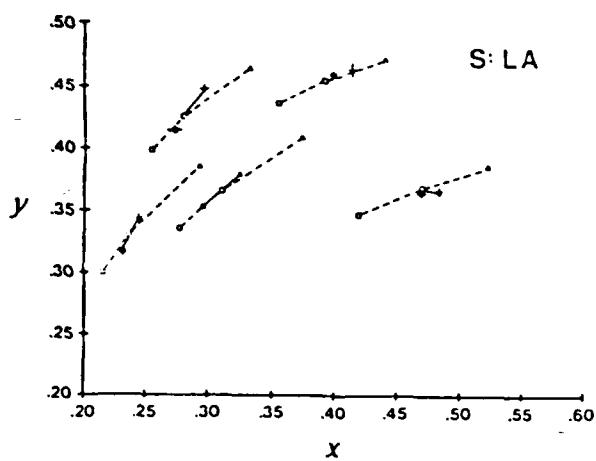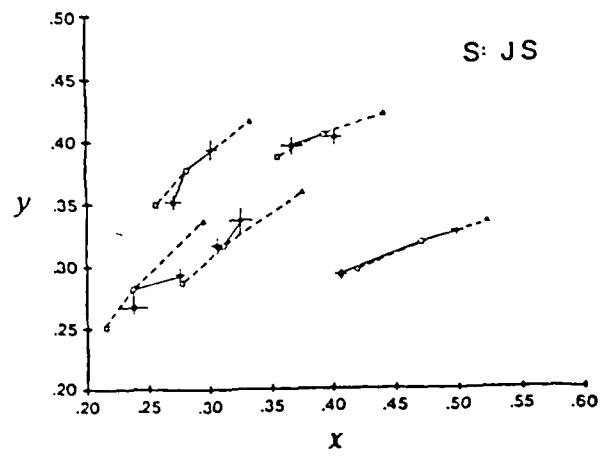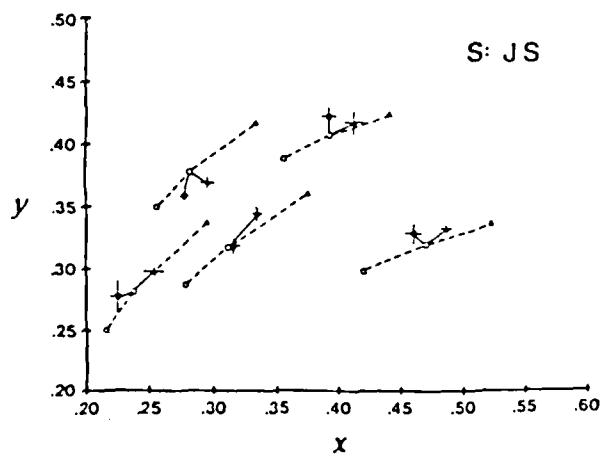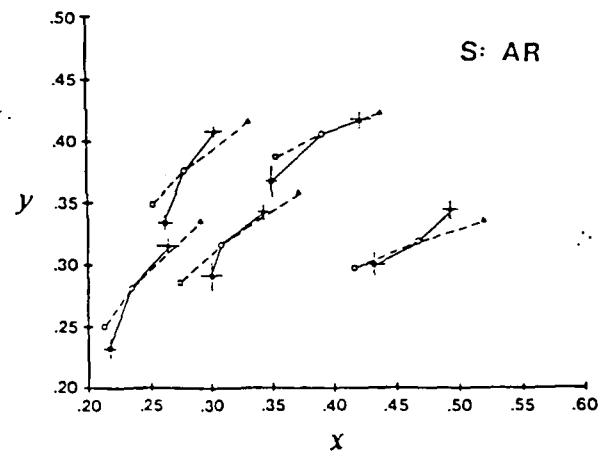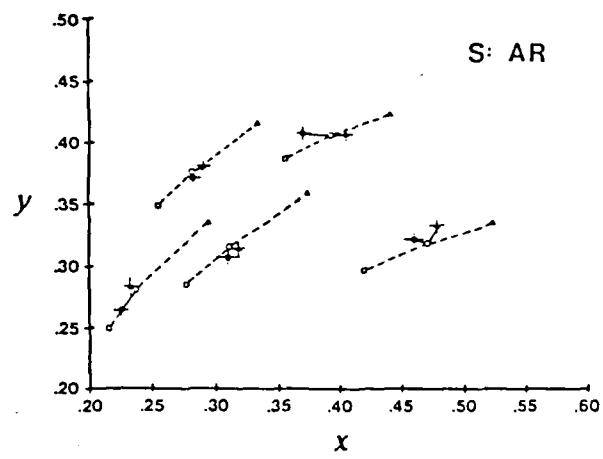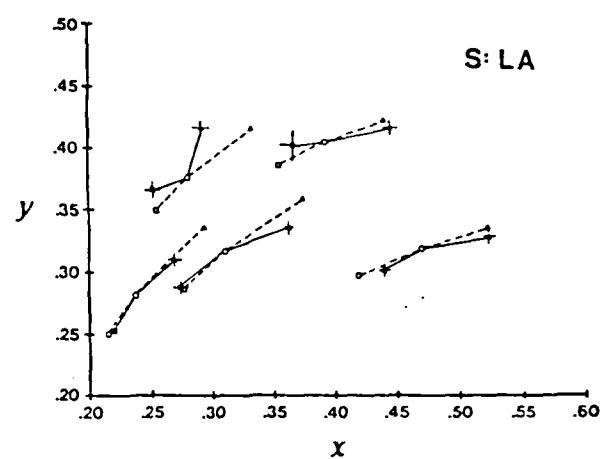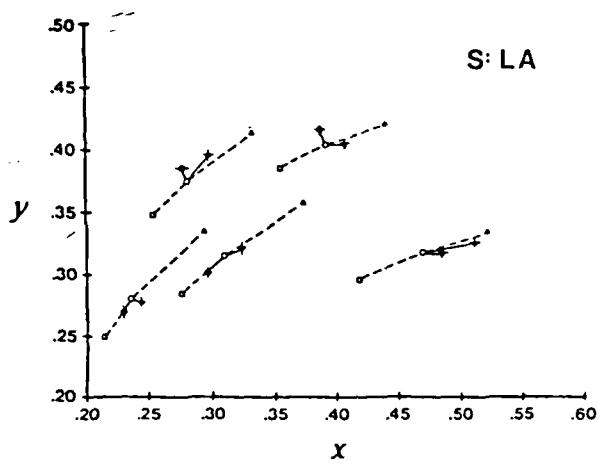
shallow chromatic illumination gradients may be unperceived or underweighted perceptually, producing partial or full simultaneous color constancy for hue matches in such scenes.

Under our viewing conditions the illumination difference was always clearly perceptible. We therefore reject any model which inflexibly discards, through some normalizing process, information about abrupt illumination changes within a single scene. The fact that humans can compute reflectance information while retaining some illumination information indicates that the visual system includes a process capable of parsing retinal illuminance changes into overlaid illumination and reflectance gradient fields. Further experiments will be required to delineate the responsible mechanisms.

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   Submitted to J. Opt. Soc. Amer. A.

Arend, L.E. and Goldstein, R. Spatial gradient illusions and
   inconsistent integrals.   In Preparation.   Probably submitted to
   Perception and Psychophysics.

Arend, L.E.   Cornsweet illusion without subthreshold gradients.
   In Preparation.   Probably submitted to Vision Research.

Arend, L.E. and Goldstein, R.   Lightness constancy in complex
   patterns.   In Preparation.   Probably submitted to J. Opt.
   Soc. Amer. A.

Arend, L. E. and Lange, R. V.   Apparent contrast of
   suprathreshold spatiotemporal gratings.   (Probably to be
   submitted to Vision Research).

IV. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Arend, Lawrence E., Principal Investigator

Goldstein, Robert, Research Assistant

Timberlake, George T., nonsalaried part-time collaborator

Reeves, Adam, nonsalaried part-time collaborator

V. PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS

Smith-Kettlewell Institute for Visual Sciences, colloquium on
   eyetracker stabilization, November, 1983.

Stanford Research International, informal presentation of
   eyetracker data to C. Burbeck and D. Kelly, November, 1983.

Brown University, Psychology Department Colloquium, "Inconsistent
   integrals in brightness illusions", November, 1984.

Visual Information Processing Research Review, AFOSR, "Stabilized
   Retinal Gratings", May, 1984.

Arend, L.E.   "Spatial gradient illusions and inconsistent
   integrals," Paper presented at Spring meeting of Assoc. for
   Research in Vision and Ophthal., April, 1985.

Invited talk at AFOSR Human Resources Laboratory, Williams AFB,
   AZ, "Color in complex displays," Feb., 1986.

VI. INVENTIONS

There were no patentable inventions under this project.

END

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